

## ONLY ONE IN FOUR SLAYERS CONVICTED

Results Compiled From Figures Obtained in 39 Cities Show Uniformity.

## NO GREAT INCREASES

War and Recent Industrial Depression Seem to Have Made Little Difference.

## NEW YORK NOT WORST

Much Talked of Crime Wave Did Not Noticeably Change Average of Homicides.

A nationwide survey made by THE NEW YORK HERALD discloses that on the police records in thirty-nine cities in this country in 1920 there were 1,624 murders noted. For various reasons, to be summed up briefly later, these same records show that the courts registered one conviction for every four murders.

Somewhat impressed by New York city statistics, telegrams were sent to thirty-eight cities selected at random, and the replies, based upon official data, pointed something for psychologists, sociologists and plain, everyday folk to think about.

In the first place industrial depression is not making us a nation of murderers. There were more slayings prior to the setting in of radical deflation. Secondly, it cannot be noticed that the addition of the Eighteenth Amendment to the Federal Constitution has made any difference in the country's bent for homicide. In this matter we seem to be no better nor worse than we were in 1916.

Furthermore it is indicated that the much advertised crime wave that swept the land within the last twelve months did not cause murder statistics to mount to a noticeable degree. But whether the crime wave helped maintain the killings average of the wet years can be nothing more than a conjecture or a point for argument because there are no reliable statistics on which to base a fair statement.

In all the usual phases of a year's murder crop last year's figures and facts indicate that, despite the millions of words being written by learned diagnosticians of our national complexes in these out of joint days, we are still pursuing the wonted tenor of our way, being no more and no less murderous than we were before the war. And on the same score, we are being punished just as much as ever, and no more. The ratios remain the same.

## New York No Better or Worse.

Before taking up the reports received by THE NEW YORK HERALD from the various cities queried, it must be understood that there has not been an arrest for every murder committed. As nearly accurate as the figures received permit, it is here set down that more than 75 per cent. of the cases, two-thirds of these arrests produce nothing in the conviction column.

Then there is a very small percentage of the recorded murders solved on the spot by the suicide of the murderer. Furthermore it must be understood that the aggregate of convictions—about one for every four murders—includes those found guilty of homicide in the first and second degree and manslaughter in two degrees.

Again, it must be remembered that a number of those arrested for murder have not yet been tried.

New York city suffered 215 murders in 1920. The thirty-nine persons killed in the Wall street explosion are not included. Manhattan produced 117 and returned thirteen individual convictions. Brooklyn shows seventy-three homicides and twenty-one convictions. Seven persons were murdered in the Bronx and but one was convicted. In Queens there were fourteen slayings, but only two convictions. Over in Richmond there were four murders, only one of which has been solved, but four persons were found guilty of that one.

But New York is neither better nor worse than other American cities in this respect. She maintains the American average, which the most reliable statistics indicate is somewhat lower all around than that of Great Britain, even exclusive of Ireland.

There were 116 killings in Chicago in 1920 and twenty-five of them have been avenged by convictions. Chicago is trying to be a better city; for she suffered but 15 during January, February and March of this year. Philadelphia indicates a rather active police force and hard working prosecutor. Last year that huge village noted 165 murders and 31 persons charged with murder were convicted. The average of convictions was high in Philadelphia, but several cities had no such victories.

## Birmingham Had 159 Killings.

Birmingham, Ala., has a population of about 132,000, or was so credited in 1920. But there were 159 murders in the county (Jefferson) of which she is the county seat and virtually everything else. Negroes were more than 75 per cent. of the victims and about the same percentage of persons arrested for and now being hunted for these murders are blacks. But despite this number of homicides only 25 per cent. of the murders have been followed by convictions.

Pittsburgh reports 95 murders in Allegheny county. About 40 of these occurred in the city proper. But thus far there have been but 5 convictions. However, there were 31 convictions for homicide in Allegheny county in 1920, but all but 6 of them affected killings perpetrated before the first of the year. Detroit's records show 128 murders in that year, with 24 convictions. But in the same city there have been 23 killings during the first three months of this year, with 5 convictions.

Syracuse has a record of 4 murders and no convictions. There were 59 homicides in Cleveland and its suburbs and the average of convictions is about 25 per cent. There were arrests in 57 cases. St. Louis produced 101 murders, 24 of which are still unsolved. There were 21 convictions. Cincinnati admits of only 14 killings, cutting its 1919 list in half. Moreover, she boasts of convicting 10 of the perpetrators of last year's crop of killings.

There were 87 slayings in Memphis, Tenn., which had then a population of 132,000. Like Birmingham, negroes figured largely as perpetrators and victims. The District Attorney's records show that there were 25 indictments, 15 acquittals, 20 cases continued, 5 nolle prossed, 2 adjudged insane and 17 still

## 'COON, PINING, FOODLESS, TO JOIN MASTER IN HOSPITAL

Pet Refuses to Eat Since Aged Gateman at Bronx Zoo Was Taken Away Ill—Sight of Burras Is Expected to Restore Appetite and Save Animal's Life.

George Burras, 79 years old and for many years attendant at the automobile entrance to the Bronx Zoo, adopted a raccoon two years ago, named him Buddy and gave him a bunk in the service house at the Zoo entrance. He taught the coon a lot of tricks, and during all the time that the aged man and the raccoon have been crooked the animal has eaten nothing that Burras has not tasted first. Last Tuesday Burras became ill and was sent to the Fordham Hospital. Max Landsberg, a Zoo keeper, took Burras's place at the gate, and almost the first thing he did was to try to feed Buddy. But the coon refused to eat, and has not

eaten anything since the doctors came and took his old friend away. All last week the raccoon loafed around with his misery and disappointment at the absence of Burras very plain to see. The Zoo authorities began to fear last night that unless something was done the raccoon would die of starvation, and they consulted with the heads of the hospital. As a result the coon will be taken to Fordham this morning and kept in a place where he can see Burras several times each day. The Zoo authorities believe that if Buddy gets a glimpse of Burras early in the morning he will eat the biggest lunch in his history.

## MAN OF 87 SEIZED AS A PICKPOCKET

Detectives Say Harry Williams Is Dean of the Profession in This Country.

In the crowds about the Fort Lee ferry last night Detectives Coy and Walsh picked up Harry Williams, 87, dean of pickpockets, by their story, whose particular pride is that he has not been in this country, but has been arrested in every State of the Union.

When the detectives slipped their arms under his neat frock coat they said they interrupted a movement Williams was making toward the watch pocket of a stout gentleman who was totally ignorant of the attempt. Williams made no resistance.

"I guess you think you've got an old timer," he remarked. "Well, I can step along some. Watch me." And from the ferry to the subway station Williams kept the detectives at a brisk walk in spite of the heat. He was still cheerful when he was locked up on a charge of attempting grand larceny, but the lines in his face seemed heavier.

Williams was said to have told the detectives that he began running counter to the law in 1867, but the earliest date in the two page record at Police Headquarters was 1898, at Omaha. The record showed that arrests followed at Kansas City, Dallas, Birmingham, Little Rock and other cities at intervals, and that Williams last year spent two terms of six months each for attempted grand larceny in this city. His route in the old days, it was said, followed the circuit.

"Maybe it was the heat set my fingers telling," Williams was quoted as saying to the detectives.

## K. OF C. TO BUILD CLUBHOUSE.

The Knights of Columbus are to have a clubhouse in New York which they plan to make one of the finest in the country. Title has been acquired to a site in Fifty-first street between Broadway and Eighth avenue, and \$2,000,000 will be raised for the project.

William P. Larkin, Supreme Director of the K. of C. will lead the campaign which will enlist 100,000 workers. The clubhouse will be from seven to ten stories high, with clubrooms, gymnasium, swimming pool and the other comforts and luxuries of a first class club.

## PLANS TO PUNISH SELFISH HUSBANDS

Magistrate in Queens Adopts a Code They Must Follow or Go to Jail.

## HOUSEWORK A PENALTY

Will Be Under the Eye of a Probation Officer; Ten Rules to Be Met.

Self-indulgent husbands of Queensborough will do well to study the character of Magistrate John Koenigsdorfer, who presides frequently in Long Island City Court, and who has views on the marriage state after seven years on the bench. Last week he announced that too many cases of marital infidelity came before him and that in seven-eighths of them the husband was to blame. So he retired to his study to prepare a code of behavior for the embarrassment of early and selfish husbands who might come before him in the future.

Instead of all they may elect:

1. To prepare the breakfast every morning.
2. To wash the dishes in the evening.
3. To take care of the children one hour a day.
4. To have one evening out a week.
5. To take the family out every Sunday, to church in the morning and for a walk in the afternoon.
6. To buy candy and fruit for the wife and children once a week.
7. To allow the wife to handle the family finances.
8. To start a savings bank account.
9. To refrain from asking his wife to wait on him, but on the contrary, wait on himself.
10. To repeat every day at least once the promise he made his wife—that he would love, honor and cherish her—when he married her.

"I am going to try an experiment," he said, "and let the husband whose ill treatment of his wife or children is established sentence himself to his own punishment and thus give himself valuable discipline and relieve me of an irksome responsibility."

"It has been my experience that stupid men abuse their wives principally because they have decided themselves to lose their sense of perspective. 'Few men recognize the deadly monotony of a woman's life in keeping a household together on wages or a small salary. For the men, themselves, even though the only recreation they have is that of going to and from work, at least have some variety in their day while the wives, to whom as attractive young girls they once made eloquent love, are committed to monotonous drudgery."

"Men like this need waking up more than they need sleep, and I have become convinced that the average man would be cured permanently if he could be set to the tasks to which his wife is committed and thus learn how much less attractive his life is than hers. 'So I am going to give him his chance. If he thinks that a term in jail will be a pleasant thing or that he is too proud to wash a dish or take the family out, the jail works thirty days in the month and twelve months in the year. If he prefers my code he is free to choose while a suspended sentence is hanging over him and the warden's officers check up his work day by day."

## 3 Crimes in a Week End Town's Long Immunity

SOMERS POINT, N. J., May 22.—This town has struggled along for a great many years with its citizens so good that there has been no need for a police force, but things have changed. Three crimes were reported to the county authorities last week, including an attack on a thirteen year old girl, and the city fathers have decided that it is about time Somers Point had some one to enforce the law. The Town Council will meet next week and decide how many policemen will be necessary to keep the place law abiding.

## MANHATTAN LEADS NATION IN BUILDING

Estimated Value of Operations in 1920 Exceeded Any Other City.

At the end of 1920 the Borough of Manhattan was short 20,000 apartments of the number needed for adequate housing of the borough's population, according to the annual report for 1920, made public yesterday by Borough President Henry H. Curran. The construction of apartments for the year, the report stated, was only 17 per cent. of the normal annual average, though the Borough of Manhattan alone led every city in the country in the estimated value of building operations generally.

The report explains: "Ordinarily the number of tenement houses proposed in any year averages more than 24 per cent. of the entire number of buildings contemplated. For the three years preceding 1920 the number of tenements was only slightly in excess of 8 1/2 per cent. of the contemplated buildings. Conditions in 1920 were even worse in this respect. It appearing that only 5 per cent. of all proposed new buildings were to be tenement houses. The average number of tenement houses for 1917-18-19 was twenty-five. The number fell below this in 1920, dropping to twenty-two."

In general building operations, Chicago is the nearest competitor of the Borough of Manhattan. The report gives the following comparative figures for 1920:

Manhattan \$139,199,563  
Chicago 79,102,650  
Detroit 71,737,105  
Cleveland 65,622,100  
Los Angeles 60,623,600

A comparison of Manhattan building operations consistently higher than that of yesterday, although the maximum of 92 was one degree lower. The mercury did not drop below 70 in the early hours, and late to night it stood at 77, a high point for night temperature even in mid-summer.

A possibility of showers was seen by the weather forecaster who, however, predicted little change in temperature for the next two days.

## SIX ARE ORDAINED BY BISHOP MANNING

His First Ceremony of Kind Performed in Three Hour Service at Cathedral.

Bishop William T. Manning presided yesterday at a three hour service at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, performing his first ordination ceremony as Bishop and assisting in the observance of Trinity Sunday. At the close of the service, as has been customary on Trinity Sunday among Bishops since the time of Bishop Potter, he paid a visit to Blackwell's Island. There he confirmed about thirty-five crippled and feeble-minded inmates of the city home in the

Episcopal faith and went among other inmates offering words of comfort. The cathedral service began at 11 and ended at 2 o'clock. The ordination sermon was preached by the Rev. Dr. John P. Peters, rector emeritus of St. Michael's Church, Amsterdam avenue and Ninety-sixth street.

The candidates for ordination as deacons were Gustave Adolph Zeltner, William Fluke Brown, Jr., and Andrew Van de Beek Vos. The deacons ordained as priests were the Rev. Charles West Manner, the Rev. Francis A. Sanborn and the Rev. John Myers Purman. There was a large attendance at the service.

## POLICE FIND THREE GASSED.

Policemen forcibly entered an apartment at 619 East Fifteenth street yesterday and found a family of three persons overcome by gas. The sufferers were taken to Bellevue Hospital, where it was said they would recover. The condition of Julia Senening, 7, was the most serious. Her parents are Mr. and Mrs. Athanas Senening. One of the gas pipes leaked, according to the police.

## IGNORAMUSES

What the Thompson-Starrett Company don't know about Delay on a building operation would fill a book!

Put it up to us to put it up for you.

THOMPSON-STARRETT COMPANY

# B. Altman & Co.

MADISON AVENUE - FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK  
Thirty-fourth Street Thirty-fifth Street

## The Annual Summer Sale of Women's Cotton Frocks

will take place to-day (Monday) and to-morrow

Over 2,000 Dainty Summer Frocks will be offered

at the phenomenally low prices of \$7.50, 9.75, 12.75, 15.00 to 22.50

Sale on the Third Floor (Madison Avenue section)

## Specials for to-day only

## Women's Silk Dresses

in a variety of the fashionable fabrics and combinations, including beaded crepe, Canton crepe, soft satin, georgette, lace and taffeta

offering exceptional value at

\$48.00

Sizes 34 to 44 inclusive

(Women's Ready-to-wear Dresses, Third Floor)

## 300 Choice Oriental Rugs

(Persian, Turkish and Chinese)

in Room Sizes, will be an extraordinary offering at these prices:

Rugs measuring from 8 x 10 feet to 9 x 12 feet

at \$168.00

Rugs measuring from 10 x 14 feet to 12 x 15 feet

at \$290.00

a few Rugs in larger sizes at each price

The wearing qualities of these Rugs are unreservedly guaranteed

(Sale in the Rug Department, on the Fifth Floor)

## Order today—Ready 10 Days from today

YOUR low price made me skeptical. I couldn't believe such fine clothes could be made for so little.

Many of our most enthusiastic boosters have said that to us.

They hesitated a long time before giving us a trial. A real made-to-measure suit at \$30 seemed unbelievable—too good to be true.

When they came, they came with incredulity—determined to take full advantage of our "money back guarantee," if we failed in the slightest degree.

And so we invite you to come, too. We do not resent an honest doubt or an honest doubter.

If our offer seems too good to be true, let us prove it up at our risk.

We like the trade of the incredulous—for their appreciation is usually all the greater when we "deliver the goods" to them 100% par—as we pretty generally do.

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Wonderful Variety Every Latest texture, shade and design. Greatest showing in America. \$30

With 1500 combinations in fabrics and fashions for your selection at thirty dollars

## AT OUR 4 WHOLESALE SALESROOMS

Uptown: 5th Avenue and 42nd Street N. W. Corner, Bristol Bldg. Opposite New York Public Library  
Theatre District: 202 West 49th Street "Just Around the Corner" from Broadway  
Union Square: 14th Street and University Place S. E. Corner, One Block West of Broadway  
Downtown: Park Row and Beekman Street S. E. Corner, Opposite City Hall Post Office

"THEATRE DISTRICT" STORE OPEN  
8:30 A. M. to 9:00 P. M. ALL OTHERS 8:30 A. M. to 6:00 P. M.

## SIX GO ON TRIAL TO-DAY ON CHARGE OF MURDER

Accused of Slaying Aged Grand View Storekeeper.

The trial of the six Italians, charged with the murder of Michael Bohl, 74 years old, a storekeeper, of Grand View, will begin this morning before Supreme Court Justice Arthur S. Tompkins at New City. Bohl was murdered in his store March 10, and his alleged slayers were captured a month later in Newark. District Attorney Morton E. Lexow of Rockland county, assisted by Henry Kohl of Newburgh, will conduct the prosecution. Feeling is so intense against the Italians that it is expected to be difficult to obtain a jury. The defendants are Luigi Ebanisto, Genarino Costera, Fred Bitudo, Albert Libero and Michael Mole of Newark and Angelo Esposito of Nyack.

## BOOTLEGGERS MURDER FATHER OF 9 CHILDREN

Man Found Dead in Jersey Identified as Brooklynite.

The body of the man found Friday in the woods in South Amboy, N. J., was identified yesterday as that of Andrew Sero, 51 years old, of 148 Jefferson street, Brooklyn. The identification was made by his wife, who said that her husband's death leaves nine children fatherless.

According to Mrs. Sero, her husband left home Friday morning in quest of work. She was surprised, however, that he went to New Jersey, and said last night she believed he had been lured there and then murdered. Identification was made by means of clothing and a snuff box.

The police, who believe Sero was murdered by bootleggers, have begun a search for two men alleged to have taken Sero's body to the woods in an automobile. Two youths who saw the license number and have given it to the police. These boys told the police they believed the men were carrying a band liquor, but investigation revealed the fact that a buried had contained Sero's body.

## BURGARS MAKE \$5,000 HAUL IN SOUTH ORANGE

They Enter Home of Jacob and Isaac Roth.

Burglars entered the home of Jacob Roth and his brother, Isaac Roth, at 478 Centre street, South Orange, early yesterday and, after going through the lower part of the house, got away with silverware valued at \$5,000. The Roth brothers are members of the firm of Roth & Co., wholesale butchers and grocers, and their estate is one of the finest in the city.

The burglars, according to Mrs. Joseph Sullivan, wife of a gardener, who said she saw them, carried their haul to the garage of Oscar Iain, 42 Hamilton road, took out a new five passenger Essex touring car and drove away. They evidently took their time robbing the Roth home. A large quantity of strawberries and other food was taken from the ice box.